

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

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R 110950Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 423

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

AMEMBASSY BANJUL

AMEMBASSY COTONOU

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

AMEMBASSY LOME

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L NIAMEY 1371

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ECIN XY

SUBJ: CEO CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING

REF: A. NIAMEY 1344 AND B. NIAMEY 1363

SUMMARY: CEO CHIEFS OF STATE AT MEETING HELD NIAMEY
APRIL 7-8 AGREED ON BASIC FRAMEWORK OF ORGANIZATION
AND ESTABLISHED TWO IMPORTANT MECHANISMS -- REGIONAL
COOPERATION TAX (TRC) AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND.
CONFERENCE REPRESENTS BOOST TO BOTH DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL
LEGITIMACY OF KOUNTCHE REGIME WHICH HANDLED PRE-CONFERENCE
NEGOTIATIONS AND CONFERENCE ITSELF WITH DIPLOMATIC APLOMB.
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UPPER VOLTA/MALI DISPUTE SIMMERED IN BACKGROUND IN

DISCUSSIONS OF CHIEFS OF STATE. PRESENCE OF LAMIZANA AND TRAORE AT MEETING SEEN AS HOPEFUL SIGN BUT NO PROGRESS APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN MADE IN SETTLING DISPUTE. CONFRONTATION OVER DISPUTE IN COMMUNIQUE ADDS FURTHER IRRITANT TO MEDIATION EFFORTS. END SUMMARY.

1. CEAO CHIEFS OF STATE MEETING IN NIAMEY APRIL 7-8 GROUPED PRESIDENTS HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY OF IVORY COAST, SENGHOR OF SENEGAL, OULD DADDAH OF MAURITANIA, LAMIZANA OF UPPER VOLTA AND TRAORE OF MALI WITH SEYNI KOUNTCHE OF NIGER TO PUT FINISHING TOUCHES ON IMPLEMENTATION OF CEAO. THE TWO PRESIDENTS SPENT MOST OF THEIR TIME IN CLOSED WORKING SESSIONS AND CANCELLED THE ONLY

PUBLIC FUNCTION, A LUNCHEON, IN ORDER TO CONTINUE THEIR DISCUSSIONS. SPEECHES AT OPENING AND CLOSING PUBLIC SESSIONS WERE LIMITED TO WELCOMING REMARKS BY KOUNTCHE, TO SENGHOR'S VISIONARY CALL FOR NOUAKCHOTT TO KINSHASA UNION AND TO MORE PRAGMATIC REMARKS BY HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY. ALL THREE CALLED FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF CEAO WHICH WOULD BE OPEN TO OTHER STATES IN THE REGION. IN PRIVATE, MOST DELEGATIONS FELT AGREEMENTS IN NIAMEY PUT CEAO CONSIDERABLY OUT IN FRONT OF ECOWAS, MAKING IT THE MORE LOGICAL BASIS FOR ANY WIDER REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPING.

2. CHIEFS OF STATE ACCEPTED WITH NO CHANGE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THEIR FINANCE MINISTERS WHO HAD BEEN IN NIAMEY SINCE APRIL 3 WORKING OUT DETAILS OF TRC AND DEVELOPMENT FUND. TRC WILL BE BASED ON EXTREMELY COMPLICATED FORMULA BY WHICH RATE OF TARIFF ON INTRA-COMMUNITY TRADED PRODUCTS WILL VARY ACCORDING TO PRODUCT, ITS COUNTRY OF ORIGIN AND ITS COUNTRY OF DESTINATION. THE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND WAS SET AT 2.9 BILLION CFA FOR 1975, OF WHICH ABOUT ONE THIRD OR 900,000,000 IS TO BE PUT TO WORK AFTER MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS SCHEDULED NEXT MONTH IN DAKAR. TRC IS ALSO SCHEDULED TO GO INTO OPERATION AFTER MINISTERS WORK OUT FINAL DETAILS AT THIS MEETING. DEPARTURE STATEMENTS OF ALL CHIEFS OF STATE STRESSED MEETING'S SUCCESS AND CEAO SEC GEN FALL TOLD US HE WAS ENTIRELY CONFIDENTIAL

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SATISFIED WITH DECISIONS AND PROGRESS ACHIEVED.

3. SUCCESSFUL CEAO SUMMIT AND SEAL OF APPROVAL WHICH WEST AFRICA'S OLD BOYS CLUB BESTOWED ON KOUNTCHE AND SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL REPRESENTS CROWNING SUCCESS OF FIRST YEAR OF NIGER'S NEW GOVERNMENT. HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY AND SENGHOR ACCORDED KOUNTCHE AND SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL MORE THAN THE REQUIRED FLATTERY IN THEIR SPEECHES AND

WERE PARTICULARLY LAUDATORY IN COMMENDING KOUNTCHE'S PRE-COIKERENCE DIPLOMACY IN BRINGING CONFERENCE ABOUT, I.E. IN GETTING BOTH MALI AND UPPER VOLTA TO AGREE TO ATTEND. ALTHOUGH HOUPHOUET-BOUGNY IS REPORTED TO HAVE QUIETLY RAISED QUESTION OF DIORI HAMANI'S FUTURE WITH KOUNTCHE, OVERALL ATTITUDE SEEMED TO BE TO LET BYGONES BE BYGONES. IN CALCULATED MOVE TO IMPRESS VISITING CHIEFS OF STATE, PARTICULARLY HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, WITH REGIME'S SERIOUSNESS, PUBLIC EVENTS AND ENTERTAINMENT WRE KEPT AT MINIMUM. KOUNTCHE NOW APPEARS TO HAVE ESTABLISHED HIS CREDENTIALS AS FULL MEMBER OF CLUB. ALL THIS ONE WEEK BEFORE FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF COUT D'ETAT GIVES SMC REAL REASON TO CELEBRATE.

4. MALI-UPPER VOLTA BORDER DISPUTE OVERSHADOWED ALL OTHER CONFERENCE CONCERNS BUT WAS KEPT IN BACKGROUND UNTIL ISSUANCE OF COMMUNIQUE AT FINAL SESSION AT NOON APRIL 8, WHICH INCLUDED REFERENCE TO TREATMENT OF MALIAN CEAO FUNCTIONAIRES IN OUAGADOUGOU (REF A PARA'S 12 AND 13 OF COMMUNIQUE). ALL ABSERVERS AT MEETING EXCLUDING MALIANS CONSIDERED THIS UNFORTUNATE REFERENCE AND AIRING OF DISPUTE WHICH COULD ONLY HUMILIATE LAMIZANA AND MAKE IT MORE DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO FOLLOW POLICY OF MODERATION. OFFENDING PARAGRAPHS WERE APPARENTLY RAMMED THROUGH BY TRAORE AT LAST MOMENT, BOTH AS PRICE FOR MALI'S CONTINUED MEMBERSHIP IN CEAO AND PRICE LAMIZANA HAD TO PAY TO RETAIN CEAO HEADQUARTERS IN OUAGADOUGOU. WE UNDERSTAND UPPER VOLTA DELEGATION WAS NOT AWARE OF THESE PARAGRAPHS UNTIL FINAL PUBLIC READING OF COMMUNIQUE BY SEC GEN FALL. ACCORDING TO LATTER, HE FIRST BECAME AWARE OF AMENDED TEXT WHEN IT WAS HANDED TO HIM TO READ. HE SAYS HE TRIED INTRODUCE BALANCING AND SOFTENING LANGUAGE BUT WAS TOLD IT WAS TOO LATE.

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5. IN PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS STATMENT, TRAORE SAID COMMUNIQUE WAS "CALL TO ORDER" OF UPPER VOLTA FOR ITS HARRASSMENT OF MALIAN CIVIL SERVANTS. LAMIZANA DISASSOCIATED HIMSELF FROM COMMUNIQUE IN HIS PRE-DEPARTURE PRESS STATEMENT AND CALLED ON MALIAN CIVIL SERVANTS WITH THE CEAO NOT TO ABUSE THEIR STATUS AS INTERNATIONAL CIVIL SERVANTS (REF B).

6. CONCUSION: MEETING WAS SUCCESS FOR ECONOMIC REGIONALISM AND FOR KOUNTCHE BUT NO PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED ON UPPER VOLTA/MALI BORDER DISPUTE AND ANOTHER IRRITANT WAS ADDED. OBVIOUSLY, CEAO'S IMMEDIATE FUTURE DEPENDS ON THE OUTCOME OF DISPUTE.HECK

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